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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, PRINTER DRIVER, IMAGE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING  
SYSTEM

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** section which begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.